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Letter dated 4 June 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on the situation in Bukavu, Democratic Republic of the Congo, issued on 4 June 2004 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Richard **Ryan**
Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 4 June 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

Statement on the situation in Bukavu, Democratic Republic of the Congo, issued on 4 June 2004 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union

1. The European Union vigorously condemns the clashes in Bukavu in the last few days, triggered by armed rebels opposed to the armed forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The European Union also condemns the deaths of several innocent civilians and the human rights violations accompanying the violence in Bukavu.

2. This insurrection threatens the territorial integrity of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, prevents the re-establishment of the State's powers in the eastern regions and, as a result, seriously undermines the pursuit of the transition process. The European Union calls on all the parties to the interim Government to work together to resolve this crisis.

3. The European Union calls for an immediate end to all hostilities, for the safety of the civilian population to be secured and for order and the rule of law to be restored to South Kivu. The European Union urges the rebel forces to lay down their weapons and leave the town of Bukavu. The European Union firmly supports the legitimate steps being taken by the interim Government to negotiate a peaceful solution to the crisis in South Kivu.

4. The European Union recalls the various declarations and agreements signed during the last two years by the countries of the region, under which they are committed to normalizing their relations and observing the principles of non-interference and respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of their neighbours. It recalls the terms of United Nations Security Council resolution 1493 (2003) of 28 July 2003 and, notably, the references to mutual security in the Great Lakes region. In this context, the European Union roundly condemns all supplies of arms or equipment to the armed rebels, as well as all foreign interference in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. All the countries of the Great Lakes region should step up their efforts to improve their bilateral relations. The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Uganda should, in particular, cooperate wholeheartedly to reduce the tension in the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

5. The European Union urges all sides in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to cooperate with MONUC to facilitate the achievement of its objectives of supporting the transition and the disarmament and demobilization process. All sides and political leaders in the Democratic Republic of the Congo should demonstrate restraint and a spirit of cooperation to solve as quickly as possible the serious situation created by the events in Bukavu.

The candidate countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey, the countries of the stabilization and association process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro, and the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.